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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: eleventh consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 66/286, coincides with the fiftieth and tenth anniversaries of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (the predecessor of the African Union) and the African Peer Review Mechanism, respectively. In commemoration of those milestones, African Heads of State and Government declared 2013 the Year of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance, with the African Union Commission organizing year-long celebrations. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), launched more than 10 years ago, specifically embodies pan-Africanism, given that it was the instrument in which African leaders expressed their commitment to and ownership of the continent's development programme. The various continental flagship programmes being implemented under NEPAD, including those on infrastructure, agriculture and governance, are key to realizing the vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent.

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Although progress has been made in the past year in accelerating growth and social development, persistent challenges, including limited progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, are highlighted herein. Also underscored is the importance for African countries of increasing public investment in order to catalyse private-sector resources, including public-private partnerships for the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes, in particular infrastructure and agricultural development. Sustained international support will be crucial if Africa is to meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the ambitious Africa 2063 vision. To this end, development partners should redouble efforts to deliver on their commitments to the continent's development, including those relating to aid. In addition, urgent action is needed to end the impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations by reaching agreement on specific issues, especially those of concern to Africa. All stakeholders need to make a strong push towards the Goals in Africa, the only region that is unlikely to attain them by 2015. In this regard, the upcoming special event of the General Assembly to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Goals affords Member States a timely opportunity to recommit themselves to accelerated implementation. The launch of the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of commitments made to the continent's development is likely to catalyse efforts towards their full delivery.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Action taken by African countries and organizations	4
	A. Infrastructure	4
	B. Agriculture and food security	6
	C. Health	8
	D. Education and training	9
	E. Environment and tourism	10
	F. Information and communications technology	11
	G. Science and technology	12
	H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation	12
	I. African Peer Review Mechanism	14
III.	Response of the international community: sustaining the momentum in uncertain times	14
	A. Introduction	14
	B. Official development assistance	16
	C. Debt relief	17
	D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows	19
	E. Trade	20
	F. South-South cooperation	20
IV.	Support provided by the United Nations system	22
	A. General	22
	B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system	22
	C. Millennium Villages	23
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	24

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 66/286, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

2. Emphasis is laid herein on the policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the response of the international community and the support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. Given that the private sector plays a significant role in the implementation of NEPAD, activities undertaken by it and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report has benefited from information provided by Member States, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and entities of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Africa.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. NEPAD is an African-owned, African-led and African-managed socioeconomic development framework. As such, it represents a paradigm shift in the way that African Governments and peoples conceive their development. As the year-long celebrations continue in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, African countries must recommit themselves to implementing NEPAD priority programmes as the embodiment of the spirit of pan-Africanism. The draft Africa 2063 vision under consideration by the African Union recognizes industrialization as vital for the economic and political revival of Africa. Realizing the vision of an African renaissance hinges on the effective implementation of the key sectoral priorities of NEPAD.

4. Within the NEPAD context, each country is expected to design its own national development framework consistent with NEPAD goals and assume responsibility for implementing NEPAD sectoral priorities at the national level. Twelve years since the adoption of NEPAD, African countries will need to further galvanize political will to move projects to the implementation stage and mobilize the necessary funding. In addition, the regional economic communities, which are the core institutions for African economic integration, play a leading role in implementing projects at the subregional level. The NEPAD Agency is instrumental in supporting the implementation of programmes and projects. It must have sufficient funding to enable it to effectively implement its strategic framework for the period 2014-2017 and to support the implementation of continental programmes and projects.

A. Infrastructure

5. Recognizing the challenge that poor infrastructure poses for development, African countries, through the adoption of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, committed themselves to making infrastructure development the top priority action for development.

6. To meet their commitments, African countries continued to step up their efforts over the past 12 months to accelerate infrastructure development through the implementation of the Programme, whose objective is to transform Africa through the development of modern infrastructure in the sectors of transport, energy, information and communications technology and transboundary waterways.

7. An emerging trend that bodes well for the sustainability of infrastructure development in Africa is the increasing reliance on domestic resources for financing infrastructure projects. Roughly half of the $93 billion that the World Bank estimates will be required per annum to close the infrastructure gap in Africa has been spent on infrastructure, with the bulk coming from African countries. Several countries, including Kenya and South Africa, have issued bonds to raise money for infrastructure financing.

8. To make infrastructure development a priority for development, African countries continued to implement the Priority Action Plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which comprises 51 continental and regional projects, including 7 implemented under the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative and spearheaded by several African Heads of State and Government. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency sought to galvanize political support in order to accelerate the implementation of the projects.

9. The projects are at various stages of implementation, with some at the feasibility/needs assessment stage and others at the project structuring and promotion stage, at which funding will be sought. Few have reached the implementation and operation stage. Progress has been made in the project to complete the missing links of the Trans-Sahara Highway, which would link Algeria and the Niger. The structuring of the project has been finalized. While the launch of the construction process has been delayed by lack of finance, efforts are being made to mobilize the required resources. The fibre-optic component of the project, linking Algeria, the Niger and Nigeria through a submarine cable, has also seen substantial progress, as evidenced by the installation of 700 km of the 2,700 km of cable required.

10. Progress has, however, been relatively slow in a project to build a road-rail bridge to link Brazzaville and Kinshasa, championed by the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project is in the needs assessment stage, with the feasibility study scheduled for completion later in 2013.

11. Encouraging progress has been made in a trans-Saharan gas pipeline project championed by Nigeria. The project has advanced to the structuring and promotion stage and private and financial institutions have been engaged for funding. The Government of Nigeria has pledged funding in the amount of $400 million for the project. An interministerial team has also been set up to coordinate and oversee implementation. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2013.

12. The North-South Corridor, championed by South Africa, is the largest project, encompassing nine separate projects cutting across various infrastructure sectors, including road, rail, ports and energy, and covering eight countries in Southern, East and North Africa. Two of the nine projects are nearing the implementation stage. Funding is being mobilized from regional and multilateral agencies and the Government of South Africa is planning to organize roadshows to promote the projects.

13. Egypt has also joined the initiative as the champion of a project that entails the development of a navigational route from Lake Victoria via the Nile River through the Mediterranean Sea to Alexandria in Egypt, traversing Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. Given that the project was conceived only recently, it is at the pre-feasibility stage.

14. Progress has also been made in other projects in all sectors. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has seen substantial progress, with the construction phase launched. Once completed, the dam will enable Ethiopia to generate 5,250 MW of electric power for domestic supply and export to the Eastern Africa Power Pool.

15. Furthermore, during the period under review, the NEPAD Agency worked to strengthen stakeholders' capacity with regard to renewable energy and to support the development of an African response to the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, including an action plan and a strategy for a decentralized energy system. A coordination hub has been set up at the African Development Bank. African countries are also looking into tapping into their vast uranium resources to promote the development of nuclear energy.

16. At the World Economic Forum on Africa, held in Addis Ababa in May 2012, the Forum, in partnership with the African Development Bank, formed a business working group on infrastructure in Africa, comprising private companies, multilateral development banks, non-governmental organizations and regional experts. It was endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union at its twentieth ordinary session, in January 2013. It could provide impetus for the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa by mobilizing private-sector financing for infrastructure projects.

17. Once completed, projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa will provide the high-quality regional infrastructure vital to facilitating the flow of goods, services and persons throughout the continent. They will also lead to improved regional cooperation and integration and boost intra-African trade. Landlocked African countries are likely to experience a reduction in transport costs resulting from improved access to seaports and improved infrastructure in transit countries.

B. Agriculture and food security

18. African countries have undertaken several important commitments in order to promote agricultural development and food security. Within the context of the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, they committed themselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), to achieving a 6 per cent growth rate in agricultural productivity per annum. Furthermore, in the context of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, they committed themselves to halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of people suffering from hunger. To tackle the problem of food insecurity, which remains pervasive in the region, they have undertaken to mainstream nutrition in their national agriculture investment plans.

19. CAADP, as the framework for agricultural development on the continent, has steadily grown in importance as a result of increasing participation. As at June 2013,

40 African countries had engaged in the CAADP process, of which 30 had signed CAADP compacts and 23 had finalized their national agriculture investment plans. Furthermore, the investment plans of 15 countries had been significantly financed. These data show that most African countries have formalized CAADP compacts, thereby certifying national agricultural development priorities identified through what strives to be a participatory and rigorous planning exercise.

20. African countries continue to make progress in the implementation of their CAADP commitments. With regard to the target of allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture set out in the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, steady progress continues, with eight countries surpassing the target as at June 2013, compared with six in the previous period. Even those countries that have not met the target have made progress. As to the target of achieving a 6 per cent growth rate in agricultural productivity per annum, 10 countries have surpassed it and another 4 have achieved growth of between 5 and 6 per cent.

21. Over the past 12 months, the NEPAD Agency focused efforts on building national capacity and institutions for CAADP implementation. It supported Botswana, Cameroon, the Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa and Zimbabwe in the preparation of CAADP compacts. Technical support was also provided to countries in the preparation of their national agriculture and food security investment plans.

22. Recognizing the important role of fertilizer use in increasing agricultural productivity, the NEPAD Agency also supported countries in integrating fertilizer usage into their national agriculture and food security investment plans. In that regard, the Agency is finalizing a study on fertilizer use and will work to ensure effective follow-up on its policy recommendations.

23. Given that a key ingredient for the successful implementation of CAADP at the country level is the involvement of stakeholders, the NEPAD Agency made efforts to increase their participation. Progress was made in the preparation of guidelines for the participation of non-State actors. African farmers, working through the Pan-African Farmers Forum, prepared a strategic plan that will form the basis for their engagement in the CAADP process.

24. Challenges continue to bedevil the implementation of CAADP, including lack of funding and limited capacity at the national level to formulate national agriculture and food security investment plans. In this context, the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities can play a significant role in tackling the capacity constraint.

25. In the declaration of a high-level meeting of African and international leaders on the renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the CAADP framework, which was adopted in July 2013 in Addis Ababa, African Governments and their development partners committed themselves to ending hunger in Africa by 2025 by mobilizing political will and increasing and reprioritizing public investment in agricultural development, especially to catalyse private investment in the sector. They also agreed to take measures to increase food and agricultural productivity, complemented by social protection.

C. Health

26. African Governments have made various commitments in the area of health, including under the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, in which they committed themselves to allocating at least 15 per cent of annual national budgets to the improvement of the health sector. They also adopted the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa to take on the problem of high maternal mortality.

27. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to promote the African health-care system, with a view to improving maternal and newborn health and survival throughout the continent, through the implementation of the above-mentioned campaign.

28. As a result of increased political commitment, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the campaign. As at June 2013, 39 countries[1] had committed themselves to it, up from 37 in the previous period. Half of the States members of the African Union have strengthened their health systems, developed a monitoring and evaluation system and created integrated HIV, reproductive health and family planning services. In some countries, the campaign has been used to mobilize additional resources for maternal and newborn health. According to the 2013 report on the campaign,[2] 73 per cent of the countries that have launched the campaign have developed national road maps for implementation, while 58 per cent have introduced national mortality audits. The campaign has also become a platform for mobilizing commitments and support for the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

29. Progress towards meeting the target set out in Abuja Declaration of allocating at least 15 per cent of annual national budgets to the improvement of the health sector has been slow, however. As at the end of 2012, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Malawi, the Niger, Rwanda and Zambia had reached the target, with just over half of all African countries reporting that they had allocated 9 per cent or more of their national budgets to health.

30. In response to the request of the African Union in January 2012, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency launched a road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, covering the period 2012-2015. It laid a path to reinforce African leadership, boost local pharmaceutical industries, accelerate regional harmonization and integration initiatives, strengthen health systems and promote new forms of development cooperation.

31. A model law on medicines regulation and harmonization was developed in collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union Commission and the World Health Organization. The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization

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[1] Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

[2] Available from http://esaro.unfpa.org/webdav/site/africa/users/Lbarnes/public/Carmma%20report%202013.pdf.

initiative is working to strengthen the legislative environment for harmonization of medicines regulations in Africa and to mobilize stakeholders to respond to the absence of laws, and/or weak laws, so as to empower countries to regulate medicines effectively.

32. Progress has been evident in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, the minimal setbacks notwithstanding. Africa has cut AIDS-related deaths by one third in the past six years. In West and Central Africa, Ghana achieved the largest reduction (66 per cent), followed by Burkina Faso (60 per cent) and Djibouti (58 per cent). The Central African Republic, Gabon, Rwanda and Togo achieved significant reductions (more than 50 per cent). Other countries in the region with significant reductions include Burundi, Cameroon, Mali and Sierra Leone, where rates fell by more than one third. Ethiopia has achieved a reduction of 90 per cent in the rate of new HIV infections in the past decade.

33. Continuing progress in the health sector notwithstanding, African countries face numerous health-related challenges. The availability of health personnel remains low. Although bearing as much as 27 per cent of the global burden of disease, sub-Saharan Africa has only 3 per cent of the world's health workers. World Health Organization projections identify a shortfall of 800,000 health workers throughout 31 sub-Saharan African countries by 2015. The shortage has many causes, including past investment shortfalls in pre-service training, international migration, premature retirement, morbidity and premature mortality.

D. Education and training

34. African Governments are committed to supporting the Millennium Development Goals of universal primary education and gender equality in education, in addition to the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All. Stronger and better education is a key objective for human resource development. The NEPAD Agency is working to implement the Education for All in Africa initiative, which is designed to fall within the framework of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the Goals.

35. Since the World Education Forum was held in Dakar in 2000, considerable progress has been made in efforts towards education for all in Africa, in particular with regard to universal primary education. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),[3] net enrolment ratios increased from 58 per cent in 1999 to 76 per cent in 2010. Enrolment in secondary education more than doubled in that period, increasing from 20.8 million to 43.7 million. With, on average, 84 per cent of school-age children completing primary education in the Southern African Development Community, above the sub-Saharan Africa average of 70 per cent, universal primary education remains within reach for most of the region. In both the East African Community and the Economic Community of Central African States, primary education completion has increased by 50 per cent overall. Thirteen African countries had completion rates above 90 per cent in 2012.

[3] See www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Dakar/pdf/SSARegional_Reportnov2012.pdf.

36. African countries recognized the added value of the Global Education First Initiative in accelerating progress towards education goals, seeing it as an important platform to mobilize stronger political commitment to and financial support for the education sector, in particular in the wake of the global economic downturn. It aims at generating renewed efforts to achieve internationally agreed education goals by 2015 with a focus on three areas: putting every child into school, improving the quality of learning and fostering global citizenship.

37. The NEPAD Agency continues to promote training, including nursing and midwifery education to promote maternal and infant well-being. During the period under review, progress was made with regard to nursing and midwifery development in Africa. Host and implementing institutions have been identified for the implementation of a NEPAD project on nursing and midwifery education in the Congo and Gabon. In Chad and Gabon, at least 40 nurses and midwives will graduate in 2015, while courses in psychiatric nursing, critical care and trauma are being given in the United Republic of Tanzania. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, some 70 nurses and midwives have been trained in a NEPAD-supported master's degree programme in midwifery, maternal care, child nursing and trauma in the past two years. The staff trained have been deployed to rural areas to provide much-needed care to communities who have not had easy access to hospitals and clinics owing to the remoteness of their homes.

38. The continent continues, however, to face significant challenges in education, including low enrolment and high drop-out rates in primary and secondary schools, gender disparities, poor early childhood care, poor education infrastructure and weak education systems. African Governments must continue to promote education policies that better prepare students with the right skills and opportunities for decent employment.

E. Environment and tourism

39. The NEPAD Agency continued to support the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD. During the period under review, African countries and subregional organizations increased their efforts to implement flagship programmes of the action plan in the areas of efforts to combat land degradation, drought and desertification, conservation of African wetlands, transboundary water management and management of natural resources.

40. Following the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, initiated a process to review the implementation of the action plan with a view to ensuring that it adequately reflected emerging issues identified at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

41. Progress has also been recorded in the implementation of Climate for Development in Africa, a programme that represents the continent's response to climate change and variability. It is geared towards strengthening the resilience of African countries to climate change by building national, subregional and regional capacity for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

42. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, the NEPAD Agency is supporting the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative, which is intended to tackle issues in such sectors as land, water, forest management and soil conservation.

43. In the tourism sector, efforts were focused on the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan, which remains the guiding document for African Union and NEPAD tourism activities. It seeks to promote tourism as an important sector in African transformation and development. The sector is expected to contribute greatly to poverty eradication, economic growth and diversification by 2020.

44. Although African tourism is relatively underdeveloped, it holds enormous potential. Africa recorded an increase of 52 million tourist arrivals in 2012, principally as a result of the normalization of the political situation in North Africa and the continued growth of sub-Saharan African destinations.

F. Information and communications technology

45. The NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in the implementation of actions to promote the development of information and communications technology on the continent. In the period under review, actions focused on two major objectives: the NEPAD e-Africa Programme, intended to connect all African countries with one another and, in turn, with the rest of the world through broadband fibre-optic submarine cables; and the NEPAD e-Schools initiative, intended to equip all African primary and secondary schools with information and communications technology.

46. With regard to infrastructure implementation, contract negotiations were finalized with consulting firms to conduct broadband studies. The studies are under way in East and Southern Africa and are expected to begin in mid-2013 in West and Central Africa. They will culminate in the development of bankable projects and business plans for the implementation of regional cross-border networks and will also inform the development of a geographic information systems database and an interactive map of regional broadband connectivity.

47. The NEPAD Agency also continued to work with African countries in the implementation of the e-Schools initiative. It launched the second phase of the initiative, which works through selected service providers to offer technical support. NEPAD also signed a memorandum of understanding with First Space Fiber to pilot service provision to existing electronic schools in Senegal. Although the evaluation of the impact of the demonstration phase, carried out in partnership with the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, is not yet available, this collaboration is expected to yield long-term benefits with regard to the development of impact evaluation capacity throughout all programme areas.

48. Progress also continued in the area of electronic applications and services. Thanks to the Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development, relevant solutions and contracts have been arranged to facilitate replication of best practices for electronic applications and services, including in agriculture, commerce, government and health. Given that Africa is a diverse continent with many languages, traditions and customs, however, it is necessary to ensure that solutions are customized to specific country markets.

49. With regard to protection of intellectual property rights and governance of information and communications technology, commendable progress has also been made. A total of 44 countries issued letters of support for the application, endorsed by the African Union, of the ".Africa" top-level domain, whose objective is to create an attractive regional home for the pan-African Internet community, to be submitted to the Governmental Advisory Committee of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

G. Science and technology

50. During the past 12 months, the NEPAD Agency continued its work in science and technology through the implementation of its Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, whose two main areas are research and development and mechanisms to improve policy and promote technological innovation on the continent. The NEPAD Agency also worked to forge partnerships and leverage them to promote innovation in Africa.

51. The NEPAD Agency has launched five regional networks of centres of excellence in biosciences to deliver innovative products and services in order to improve livelihoods in Africa: the African Biosafety Network of Expertise, the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences, the West African Biosciences Network, the North African Biosciences Network and Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa.

52. The Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund has been established through Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa and will support research into agricultural constraints in food production, nutrition and animal health. The next step in the process is to ensure sufficient funding from African Governments.

53. Through the African Biosciences initiative, 30 scientists studying for doctoral and master's degrees from the region were trained, with a discernable increase in female research scientists. More than 300 participants benefited from 13 special skills courses in fish farming, mushroom production, technology transfer and commercialization, intellectual property management, project management, information and communications technology and database management, and science communication.

54. Progress also continued in the implementation of technology and innovation policies and strategies through the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators initiative, with 32 countries becoming involved. The countries have established trained focal points to coordinate research and development and innovation surveys at the national level. The initiative has also paved the way for new collaboration with partners such as the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. An advisory committee comprising experts from throughout Africa and international organizations has been established by the NEPAD Agency to guide the process.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

55. African Governments made important commitments under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in 2003, and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, adopted

in 2004. The instruments collectively address the rights of women, including the right to social and political equality with men, to control of their reproductive health and to equality and empowerment in the areas of health, human rights, education, economic development, governance and peace and security. Following the adoption of the African Union Gender Policy in 2009, African leaders launched the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) to promote the implementation of commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

56. African countries have made encouraging progress towards meeting their commitments in this regard. In particular, they have made strong progress against their commitment to expand and promote gender parity at the national and local levels of government. In 2012, the proportion of seats held by women in African national parliaments reached nearly 20 per cent, second only to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the continent has made significant strides towards its commitment to ensure the education of girls and achieve the goal of education for all. In 2012, nearly half the countries in Africa had achieved gender parity in primary school, and parity at the secondary and tertiary levels had also improved.

57. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to provide support to African countries in translating their commitments into projects to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. The NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment designed and implemented a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework, and its work plan was aligned with 8 of the 10 themes of the African Women's Decade.

58. The NEPAD Agency provided technical support to African fisheries, resulting in the design of a gender strategy for the NEPAD-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Fish Programme. Technical and financial support was provided for the design of a project on gender and climate-smart agriculture. In addition, the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment supported peace and security for women in Cape Verde by establishing a network for reporting gender-based violence and training on prevention and awareness. It also successfully implemented a number of projects that benefited women in areas such as agriculture, food security and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

59. While much success was achieved during the reporting period, several challenges hampered progress. The lack of a specific fund dedicated to the institutional strengthening of the African Union and NEPAD, the regional economic communities and gender machineries continues to hinder efforts towards gender mainstreaming at all levels.

60. To scale up progress in the implementation of this agenda, the African Union will require enhanced capacity and support, in addition to increased financial resources, for institutional strengthening of gender mainstreaming and the implementation of its road map within NEPAD and at the national and community levels. Resources can be generated through the creation of a fund for gender mainstreaming. Furthermore, increased collaboration between the NEPAD Agency and States, in addition to the development of accountability tools for implementation and progress reporting by States, would help to strengthen implementation.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

61. In 2002, in recognition of the negative impact of poor governance on development, African Heads of State and Government adopted the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which they committed themselves to improving institutions of governance and promoting the rule of law.

62. During the period under review, the African Peer Review Mechanism continued to strengthen and institutionalize good political, economic and corporate governance throughout the continent. Chad, the Niger and Tunisia joined the Mechanism, bringing its membership to the following 33 countries (representing more than 76 per cent of African population): Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

63. The United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were peer-reviewed during the eighteenth Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (the African Peer Review Forum), held in January 2013, increasing the number of countries reviewed to 17. As at June 2013, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia had been peer-reviewed. A progress report submitted by Benin on the implementation of its national programme of action was reviewed by the Forum.

64. The year 2013 coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism. The Mechanism's governing bodies and strategic partners have organized a series of events to raise awareness of it and the importance of its work among African citizens and the international community, while reflecting on progress achieved and the challenges being faced.

65. The Mechanism has established itself as a unique and innovative framework for promoting peace, security and development in line with the principles of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness. It has created a platform for African peer learning and sharing of experiences and best practices, in addition to engendering a more open polity and strengthening government-civic engagement (see A/68/220). The involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in the process has helped to strengthen national programmes of action.

III. Response of the international community: sustaining the momentum in uncertain times

A. Introduction

66. The slow and fragile global economic recovery notwithstanding, growth remained strong in Africa, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by an average of 6.6 per cent in 2012, according to the *African Economic Outlook 2013*. Oil exporters and low-income African countries registered exceptionally strong

growth performance. The strong growth has not, however, been inclusive or sustainable. Moreover, the unemployment situation, in particular among young people, remains a lingering serious concern and, given the continent's disproportionately high population of young people, threatens long-term political stability.

67. Persistently high unemployment threatens to undermine recent gains made towards social development and derail progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. With little time left until the target date for attainment of the Goals, a strong push will be required to ensure accelerated progress towards the Goals and to sustain the momentum beyond 2015.

68. A global partnership for development, including mainly official development assistance and trade, will be crucial for accelerating efforts to achieve the Goals by 2015, in addition to enabling the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. As Member States continue to define the contours of the new agenda, ensuring that their efforts fully reflect African needs and priorities, in particular those identified in the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, will go a long way to strengthening the continent's progress and helping to consolidate its recent development gains.

69. As part of the global partnership for development, the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yokohama, Japan, from 1 to 3 June 2013 on the theme "Hand in hand with a more dynamic Africa". The participants adopted two outcome documents: the Yokohama Declaration 2013 and the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017. Both documents align the Conference agenda for the coming five years with continental priority objectives and initiatives of the African Union and NEPAD. Such alignment will foster implementation of continental programmes in ways that enable Africa to meet its development needs effectively and ensure African ownership and leadership of its development agenda. Japan pledged a financial package of $32 billion, including public and private resources, to finance development projects in Africa under the auspices of the Conference over the coming five years. The projects will be aimed at ensuring accelerated growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction through interventions in key priority areas, including infrastructure, human resource and private-sector development, while simultaneously promoting equity and inclusiveness. The participants also adopted an revised follow-up mechanism that includes the African Union. The involvement of both the African Union and the United Nations in that mechanism is vital for reviewing the implementation of the commitments made at the Conference.

70. The 2013 summit of the Group of Eight, held at Lough Erne, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was convened against the backdrop of an uncertain global economic outlook marked by slow recovery and fragility in the financial sector. The States members of the Group committed themselves to working to support global economic recovery and job creation, especially for the young and long-term unemployed, by supporting demand, managing public finances and reforming their economies. In the outcome document of the summit, they committed themselves to taking measures in three areas crucial for development: tax systems, transparency and trade. They also reaffirmed their commitment to CAADP as the guiding framework for agricultural transformation in Africa, recognizing the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition as a means to increase private-sector investment in support of CAADP country investment plans.

71. During his recent visit to Africa, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, unveiled two key initiatives. The first, "Power Africa", is a package worth $7 billion to help Africa to overcome its energy shortage. It includes $1.5 billion from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and $5 billion from the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The preliminary set-up will include Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. It is likely to catalyse further private investment in the sector. The second initiative, "Trade Africa", is intended to boost trade within Africa, beginning with the East African Community.

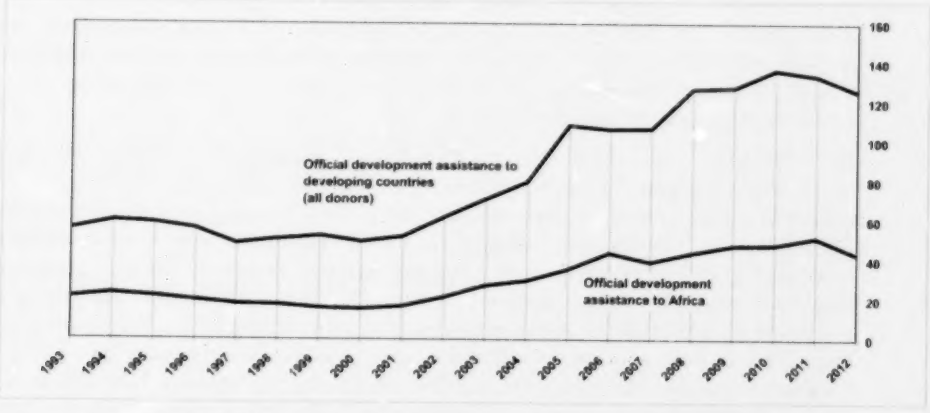
72. The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/293, decided to establish a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will serve as its secretariat. The mechanism will complement global efforts focused on monitoring the implementation of development commitments. Its added value will be derived from its broad thematic coverage and inclusive nature, involving all development partners, including traditional and emerging donor partners and civil society, media and academic institutions, as well as its relationship with existing monitoring mechanisms. This, coupled with leveraging the political legitimacy of the Assembly, is likely to catalyse a major push to ensure full and timely delivery of commitments to Africa's development.

B. Official development assistance

73. According to OECD, total official development assistance declined from $133.7 billion in 2011 to $125.9 billion in 2012. Preliminary data show that flows to Africa declined to some $43 billion in 2012 from $51.7 billion in 2011. That decline may be partly attributed to fiscal tightening in many donor countries, especially in Europe, on account of the lingering effect of the global financial crisis and the turmoil in the euro zone economies.

Total official development assistance from all donors

(Billions of current United States dollars)



Source: Based on the OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database, 2013.

74. Disconcertingly, there was a noticeable shift in aid allocation from the poorest countries towards middle-income countries. The share of Africa in total OECD/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation has remained relatively constant, averaging around 37 per cent during the past three years. These data indicate that donors are not prioritizing Africa in aid allocation, the pledges to that effect notwithstanding. This is a concern in view of the significant role that aid has played in progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries, especially in Africa.

75. The increase in official development assistance to Africa since 2004 notwithstanding, the flow to the continent continues to fall short of pledges. At the Group of Eight summit held at Gleneagles, United Kingdom, in 2005, leaders announced a series of national commitments to increase international assistance, including doubling official development assistance to Africa by 2010 relative to 2004 levels. Aid allocation to Africa remains significantly below the 2010 level implied by the commitments made in 2005 (around $66 billion in 2011 prices), which represents around 70 per cent of what Africa would have received had the commitments been met in full.[4] The accountability report released at the Group's summit in 2013 assessed donor performance on this score as just satisfactory.

76. Against this backdrop, the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda assumes great importance. Although some progress has been made in areas such as strengthening ownership of development by recipients and untying aid, challenges persist. Aid distribution remains insufficiently coordinated and the problem of what are termed aid "darlings" and "orphans" continues.

77. In follow-up to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, a global partnership for effective development cooperation was established in June 2012 as an inclusive forum bringing together a number of stakeholders, including traditional donors, emerging development partners, recipient countries and business and civil society representatives. The Global Partnership will contribute to improved development effectiveness through strengthened synergies and complementarities among donors (both traditional and emerging), coupled with enhanced ownership by recipient countries. Other progress includes the adoption of a set of effectiveness indicators that will provide the basis for a global monitoring framework. The participation of emerging development partners in this monitoring framework will be of great value to development effectiveness in Africa, in particular in the light of their increasing role in the continent's development.

C. Debt relief

78. The international community has committed itself to helping to address the debt problems of developing countries, including in Africa, through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, as well as at the bilateral level.

[4] See Economic Commission for Africa and OECD, "The Mutual review of development effectiveness in Africa: promise & performance" (2012). Available from www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/mutual_review_2012english.pdf.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (as at June 2013)

Status	*Countries*
29 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
1 interim country (between decision and completion point)	Chad
3 pre-decision-point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

79. As can be seen from the table, 29 African countries had reached the post-completion point as at June 2013 and were therefore receiving full debt relief. Two countries — the Comoros and Guinea — had reached the completion point by the end of 2012. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank announced debt relief of $176 million for the Comoros in December 2012 and of $2.1 billion for Guinea in September 2012. Furthermore, the Paris Club announced debt cancellation of $8.1 billion for the Comoros and debt relief of $344 million for Guinea, including $151 million in debt cancellation.

80. Chad is the only country between the decision point and the completion point and is receiving interim debt relief. For Chad to move to the post-completion point, it must continue working on its macroeconomic performance and make progress towards meeting several of the triggers under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, including health, infrastructure and rural development, which have been relatively weak.

81. Three pre-decision-point countries — Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan — are yet to initiate the process of qualifying for debt relief under the Initiative. Eritrea has benefited from the development of mining activity and the production of gold since 2011, but its political situation remains fragile. Somalia has had virtually no engagement with international financial institutions for more than 20 years owing to its highly uncertain political and security situation and the lack of economic and financial information. The Sudan has made good progress towards the technical work required to advance towards the decision point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and has, in collaboration with creditors, reconciled more than 90 per cent of the end-2010 external debt stock.

82. The debt burden of African countries has continued to fall. International Monetary Fund data, based on the most recent debt sustainability analysis, show that the provision of comprehensive external debt relief by creditors, in the context of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative,

significantly contributed to reducing debt levels in Africa. The amount of debt relief provided to beneficiaries through the initiatives was, on average, about 47 per cent of their combined GDP in 2012.[5] Debt sustainability analysis projections suggest that the medium-term debt outlook for sub-Saharan Africa is generally favourable, given the projected economic outlook for the region. Projections indicate that average debt-to-GDP ratios are expected to edge up only marginally in the coming five years relative to end-2012 levels.

D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

83. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, flows of foreign direct investment to Africa increased from $47.6 billion in 2011 to $50 billion in 2012, the decline of 18 per cent in global flows notwithstanding. Flows to Africa were driven largely by investment in the extractive sectors (oil and minerals). Services and manufacturing foreign direct investment flows are also rising, attracted by the growing middle-class population. The future outlook is more promising than in 2012, what with the gradual strengthening of the global economic recovery, including a return to positive growth in the euro zone.

84. Performance was mixed among the subregions, with North Africa registering strong growth of 35 per cent in 2012, following a drastic fall in 2011 in response to political turmoil. Central and East Africa also saw major increases in foreign direct investment flows. Flows to East Africa were influenced mainly by oil and gas in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Flows to West and Southern Africa registered a substantial decline, with inflows to the two largest economies on the continent, South Africa and Nigeria, falling by 24 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, in 2012.

85. While the relative importance of traditional donors as a source of capital for Africa continues to decline, emerging countries of the South are consolidating their position and directing substantial investment across the continent. Several countries, including Brazil, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, continued to channel investment towards Africa in 2012. According to the *African Economic Outlook 2013*, South-South investment accounted for the largest share of announced greenfield investment to Africa for the second year in a row. Even though it declined from $43.7 billion to $24.9 billion in 2012, the share of total announced greenfield investment to Africa increased from 53 per cent in 2011 to 61 per cent in 2012.

86. Successful economic reforms undertaken in recent years have led to an improved business environment, increasing the region's attractiveness to international investors. African countries are steadily improving their positions on the World Bank's annual "ease of doing business" ranking, with several featuring among the world's top 10 reformers. This state of affairs has been a key factor in the mobilization of foreign investment.

87. Another welcome development is the diversification by African countries of their sources of external financing. Bond offering is an increasingly important source of external financing for Africa. According to the International Monetary Fund, as at May 2013, 11 countries had issued bonds on the international financial

[5] See International Monetary Fund, *Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa* (Washington, D.C., 2013).

markets, with many offers oversubscribed.[5] This reflects increased confidence on the part of investors in the future growth prospects of African countries. Buoyed by the positive response from the global financial markets, other African countries may follow suit and issue bonds in the medium term.

E. Trade

88. The international community has pledged to support the integration of African countries into the global economy through enhanced market access and by addressing issues of special export interest for Africa in the context of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. It has also pledged to help African countries through Aid for Trade in order to address their supply-side and trade-related infrastructure bottlenecks, which constrain their ability to engage in international trade.

89. While preparations for the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, are under way, there has been no progress to date in the Doha Round of trade negotiations towards reaching an agreement on issues affecting Africa, including greater reduction in trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. Every effort is now being made to ensure that, at the forthcoming conference, multilateral trade rules are strengthened to limit protectionism and restore sustained levels of global trade growth. In addition, various negotiating approaches are being explored to advance negotiations where progress could be achieved for an early harvest with regard to the Doha Development Agenda, which has remained elusive for more than a decade.

90. At the Group of Eight summit at Lough Erne, the States members of the Group reaffirmed the importance of food security for Africa, pledged to reject efforts to protect domestic markets and highlighted a powerful argument for driving forward free trade, with WTO playing a central role. They committed themselves to supporting the multilateral trading system by reaching agreement in December 2013 on a WTO initiative aimed at cutting bureaucracy to make it easier and swifter for goods to cross borders.

91. Following the third global review of the Aid for Trade initiative in 2011, Aid for Trade resources committed to Africa fell from $18.5 billion in 2010 to $13.1 billion in 2011 (29 per cent). That decrease, caused by reduced commitments to energy and transport projects, affected countries north (notably Egypt and Morocco) and south (among others, Ethiopia, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania) of the Sahara. The fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, on the theme "Connecting to value chains", was held in Geneva in July 2013. Participants examined how development assistance could be used to connect firms in developing countries and least developed countries to value chains. They discussed options to join and add value within the network of production chains. Another key issue discussed was the development benefits of participation in value chains, notably in the context of the continuing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda.

F. South-South cooperation

92. South-South cooperation continued to be a major source of African development, complementing North-South cooperation. The African Union Commission continued

its global review process of strategic partnerships between Africa and the rest of the world.

93. During the review period, Africa strengthened its partnerships with emerging development partners within intergovernmental forums such as the third Korea-Africa Forum, the third Africa-South America Summit and the fifth BRICS (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) Summit.

94. In October 2012, during Korea-Africa Cooperation Week in Seoul, the third Korea-Africa Forum enhanced cooperation between African countries and the Republic of Korea through the Seoul Declaration of the Third Korea-Africa Forum 2012 and the Action Plan for the Third Korea-Africa Forum 2013-2015.

95. In February 2013, the Malabo Declaration was adopted at the third Africa-South America Summit in order to strengthen cooperation between the two regions around 27 projects cutting across such sectors as trade, investment, health and education, infrastructure and science and technology.

96. In March 2013, at the fifth BRICS Summit, held in Durban, the participants adopted the eThekwini Declaration and Action Plan to strengthen partnership for development, integration and industrialization. They reaffirmed their support for sustainable infrastructure development, industrial development, job creation, skills development, food and nutrition security, poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa.

97. Over the past year, emerging development partners such as China, India and Turkey enhanced their cooperation with African countries. Trade between China and Africa reached $163.9 billion during the first 10 months of 2012, compared with $166 billion for all of 2011.[6] Cultural and people-to-people exchanges have also deepened, given that 1 million Chinese travelled to Africa and nearly 500,000 Africans to China. In November 2012, China launched an $8 million programme with UNESCO to support educational development in Africa over four years to help to narrow the educational quality gap on the continent.

98. India-Africa trade expanded from $51.6 million in 2010/11 to $67 million in 2011/12.[7] In the same period, India approved some $1.2 billion in lines of credit for Africa to finance projects in agriculture, irrigation, food processing, rural electrification, information technology and infrastructure such as roads, railways, cement and power. India continued to establish institutions to build and strengthen capacity at the pan-African, regional and bilateral levels, including the India-Africa Institute of Information Technology in Ghana, the India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade in Uganda, the India-Africa Institute of Education, Planning and Administration in Burundi and the India-Africa Diamond Institute in Botswana.

99. In 2012, under a technical cooperation package for least developed countries, Turkey identified and began implementing priority projects estimated at around $260 million in areas such as efficient use of water resources, climate change,

[6] See "China-Africa trade likely to hit record high", Xinhua, 27 December 2012. Available from http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-12/27/c_132067354.htm.

[7] See, for example, Shyam Saran, "India and Africa: development partnership", Research and Information System for Developing Countries Discussion Paper, No. 180 (New Delhi, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, December 2012). Available from http://ris.org.in/images/RIS_images/pdf/dp180_pap.pdf.

agriculture, forestry, tourism and poverty alleviation. African students from Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia received scholarships to study at Turkish universities. Turkey provided extensive support to North African countries in the context of the Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition by providing financial packages to Egypt, Tunisia and Libya amounting to $2 billion, $500 million and $200 million, respectively.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

100. The United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by its entities at the regional, subregional and national levels takes various forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent report by the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2013/6) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided during the past year.

B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system

101. During the reporting period, the United Nations system strengthened its provision of support to the African Union in the servicing of Union summits, the implementation of various programmes for the continent's development, the provision of effective technical support, capacity-building and a forum for consensus-building and advocacy, and the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues such as gender and employment in the programmes' work. The Regional Coordination Mechanism clusters prepared business plans and developed benchmarks to monitor progress in the implementation of NEPAD priorities. The Mechanism is now administered jointly by the Union and the United Nations.

102. Among the main achievements, the United Nations system handed over to the African Union the joint work programme for the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the Union in June 2012. A joint subregional coordination mechanism was established for Eastern and Southern Africa. With technical support from the Economic Commission for Africa, the Mechanism developed a business plan in line with the decision of the regional economic communities in the subregion to facilitate a free trade area across Eastern and Southern Africa. The United Nations system provided technical and financial support for participatory gender audits for agencies participating in the governance and social development clusters, which contributed to strengthening capacity to mainstream gender equality in governance and social development areas of NEPAD work.

103. In July 2012, the Regional Coordination Mechanism held a two-day meeting to discuss resource mobilization strategies for the African Union and NEPAD. Several

possibilities were identified for strengthening and building synergies and linkages between clusters, including strengthening intra-cluster and inter-cluster coordination among United Nations agencies in developing and implementing their cluster activities.

104. Along these lines, at the thirteenth session of the Mechanism, held in November 2012, recommendations were made on the preparation of a joint resource mobilization strategy between the United Nations and the African Union Commission and the creation of a trust fund to facilitate the implementation and coordination of activities set out in the business plans of the clusters. The United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Africa, chaired by the Special Adviser on Africa, continued to provide an effective framework for the entities of the United Nations system to share expertise and experience. Among other activities, the Task Force actively participated in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General on United Nations support to NEPAD and on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and in the consultation process on the establishment of the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments relating to the development needs of Africa.

C. Millennium Villages

105. During the period under review, the Millennium Villages project continued to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in 10 sub-Saharan African countries, reaching some 500,000 people. Progress reports show that the project has made substantial progress towards the Goals, in particular in reducing child hunger, promoting gender equality in access to primary education, reducing child mortality and providing access to safer drinking water.

106. In an effort to tackle development challenges and accelerate the achievement of the Goals in the northern savannah ecological zone of Ghana, a new Millennium Village was launched in the region, serving some 30,000 people. Several new initiatives were also launched, including a community education worker programme, a campaign to train and deploy 1 million community health workers and various programmes relating to water, sanitation and hygiene. School meal programmes were expanded to include early childhood education centres. Several sites have supported schools to launch empowerment programmes for girls and to introduce sexual and reproductive health programmes for teenagers and parents. Infrastructure initiatives, including construction of schools, health clinics and roads, continued. The project has contributed to increased access by communities to water and electricity systems, with an increased focus on training sessions to prepare communities to manage infrastructure on their own once the project has concluded. The project is now beginning to work with the government of each Millennium Village location so that personnel, operations and management of the project can make the transition to local ownership, in anticipation of a full transition by 31 December 2015.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

107. Evident progress was made in the past 12 months in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda and, therefore, the commitments by African countries to their development, including the moving of several infrastructure projects to the implementation stage and the mobilizing of the private sector for the implementation of NEPAD, especially in terms of agriculture. Progress also continued in the implementation of other NEPAD priority sectors, including health, education and gender mainstreaming. Ten years since its establishment, the African Peer Review Mechanism has contributed to strengthening the space for engagement between Governments and the public.

108. With regard to international support for NEPAD, while foreign direct investment flows continued their upward trend, the global economic uncertainty notwithstanding, official development assistance to Africa declined considerably, even in the face of donor commitments to increase aid to the region. Furthermore, the Doha Round of trade negotiations remained stalled. This is a setback for developing countries, especially African countries that have undertaken painstaking structural reforms in order to reap the benefits of open trade. All these issues risk derailing recent development gains, including progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. As 2013 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity, African countries should recommit themselves to the NEPAD agenda and further mobilize the requisite political will to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD priority projects by stepping up public investment in order to catalyse significant private-sector investment.

109. The launch of a process to develop the Africa 2063 vision on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity should serve as a solemn opportunity for African leaders to reiterate their commitment to the ideals of pan-Africanism and work to realize the dream of an African renaissance and to bequeath to future generations a united, prosperous and peaceful continent. Involving Africans in the design of programmes and projects intended to benefit them will be key to the successful implementation of NEPAD.

110. Given that NEPAD was predicated on the existence of a partnership between Africa and the international community, African countries and continental organizations must continue to forge partnerships and leverage them for the development of Africa. Doing so will ensure that the current momentum is sustained and accelerated. While progress has been made in the implementation of the NEPAD priority sectors, more remains to be done with regard to the NEPAD agenda. The consideration of the recommendations set out below will be important in this regard.

111. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa holds the key to pan-Africanism and an African renaissance. Seizing the political momentum evident in the implementation of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, efforts are needed to fast-track other Programme priority action projects to the implementation stage and encourage private participation and investment in infrastructure. In the light of the huge financing gap for infrastructure development, African development partners, including emerging

development partners, should also encourage their companies to direct investment into infrastructure by providing them with tax and non-tax incentives.

112. Given the serious problem of hunger in Africa and the important place that agriculture occupies in development overall, greater efforts must be made to raise agricultural productivity in line with Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security and to reprioritize public investment in agriculture so as to catalyse private investment. Improvement in agriculture and food security would fast-track progress towards the other Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to health. Donors should also make efforts to increase their provision of financing to African agriculture in line with the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

113. In the light of the limited progress towards the Goals and the looming deadline, a strong push is required in the remaining period to ensure accelerated progress towards the Goals through increased political will and by channelling resources to those targets where progress has been limited.

114. Education has been the bedrock of progress in most successful societies and has the potential to transform socioeconomic development in Africa. Greater attention should be paid to the quality of education and learning achievements. African Governments must continue to promote inclusive education policies that better prepare students with the right skills and opportunities for decent employment.

115. While it is evident that African women contribute substantially to economic, social and political development and environmental management, they continue to have limited access to basic services and equal opportunities and are often marginalized in decision-making structures. Efforts must be made by African Governments to provide a framework that will accelerate women's empowerment, ensure greater political will and strengthen enforcement of laws aimed at such empowerment.

116. In the 10 years since its establishment, the African Peer Review Mechanism has been a trailblazing and innovative programme that has contributed to strengthening institutions of governance. African countries that have completed the reviews should fully implement the recommendations arising therefrom. Other countries that have not acceded to the Mechanism may wish to consider doing so in order to clearly anchor their commitments to good governance.

117. Translating the continent's impressive growth into sustained social development and poverty reduction requires bold and targeted public policy interventions geared at accelerating job creation through value addition and economic diversification.

118. Since Africa is the only region that is at risk of not meeting most of the Goals by 2015, donor countries should strive to deliver on their pledges to the continent, especially through increased official development assistance, technology transfer and foreign direct investment, including investment in infrastructure and other NEPAD priority sectors.

119. **Furthermore, the international community should continue to be engaged in the development of Africa beyond 2015. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the continent's special needs in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up implementation of the mandates relating to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular means of implementation.**

120. **Given the difficulty in concluding the Doha Round as a single package in the short term, efforts must be focused on reaching agreement on issues that could have a greater impact on enabling trade, including trade facilitation and trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, an area of great importance to Africa. Furthermore, issues on which agreement has already been reached should not be held hostage by failure to conclude the round but should be fast-tracked for implementation.**

121. **The Tokyo International Conference on African Development remains an important platform for raising awareness of, and mobilizing international support for, the development of Africa. The alignment of the Conference agenda with African Union and NEPAD priorities was a significant achievement. Going forward, the added value of the Conference will be measured in terms of the extent to which it is able to mobilize catalytic and game-changing private investment in the NEPAD priority sectors, in particular infrastructure and agriculture.**